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Application No.: 09/604,564
Office Action Dated: August 9, 2005

**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 3, 17 and 40 in the manner proposed by the Examiner. With regard to claim 40, applicants have not added all of the language that was present in cancelled claim 39, since some of that language would have been redundant relative to what was already present in claim 40. However, applicants have added language to claim 40 to address the "first key" antecedent basis issue.

Oath/Declaration

In response to the Examiner's comment concerning the oath/declaration, applicant points out that a signed declaration, including signatures and citizenship, was filed on November 3, 2000. Applicants have included with this response a copy of the paper that was filed on November 3, 2000 (including the signed declaration), and have also included a copy of the postcard showing receipt thereof by the patent office. The undersigned has examined the Image File Wrapper of this case on the PAIR system and notes that the signed declaration does not appear in the image record. However, it appears that the omission of this paper from the image record is an error, since the postcard stamped by the patent office indicates that the executed declaration was received.

Conclusion

All outstanding issues having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance.

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